

**Thomas Jefferson to House of Representatives,
November 14, 1791, with Reports on Petitions of
William Howe and Charles Colvill; Partial Transcription
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by Paul Leicester Ford.**

REPORT ON HOWE

Nov. 14. 1791.

The Secretary of State, to whom was referred by the House of Representatives the Petition of William Howe, praying satisfaction from the United States, for a Debt due to him in Nova Scotia, and whereon Judgment has been rendered against him, contrary to existing Treaties, as he supposes, with Instructions to examine the same, and report his Opinions thereupon to the House, has had the same under consideration, and thereupon Reports:

That if the facts be justly stated in the Petition; Indemnification is to be sought from a foreign Nation, and, therefore, that the Case is a proper one to be addressed to the President of the United States.

That, when in that Channel, if it shall be found after advising with Counsel at Law, that the Verdict or Judgment rendered in the said Case is Inconsistent with Treaty, it will become a proper Subject of Representation to the Court of London,

and of Indemnification from them to the Party.

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That to this Interposition the Petitioner will, in that case, be entitled, but not to any Reimbursement from the United States directly.